

"MOLLIE AND SON"

CREATED BY

ALVIN BORETZ

"MOLLIE AND SON"

Leo Davis died suddenly. Like a lot of men. Plop!
Just like that. In the middle of Third Avenue, between 23rd and 24th Streets.

The Times obit was neat and sparse. Like Leo.
".....suddenly in his fifty third year. Adoring husband of Mollie, happy father of Howard."

Since it was his widow who placed the notice, the adjectives regarding his familial connections were properly described. In addition to the wife and son, Leo Davis also left a lot of uncollected bills. For a man who depended for some of his livelihood in tracing debtors who had skipped, it was but one more manifestation of his entire frustrated career.

Mollie Davis had had a good life with Leo. He was a pleasant enough man. He spent long hours away from home and he rarely bothered her. It was only when she went to his office to tie up the final loose ends that she learned Leo was also a secretive man. She discovered that apart from being a skip tracer, he was also a private detective. He had followed cheating wives and husbands, ferreted out crooked employers and often did work for defense lawyers.

All this surprised Mollie. For like any good widow, she had planned to take over her late husband's business and carry on. And like most wives, she secretly had always thought she

could do better than her husband, no matter what his business was. And now with the liberation of women a reality, Mollie was more determined than ever to take over the business. There was all the money owed Leo and besides, hadn't he always planned that some day the business would go to Howard. It would hopefully happen of course, but all Mollie planned to do was make sure of it by building the business to the heights where it should have been long ago.

And so, the Davis Agency, specializing in Private Investigations, came under new management. What Mollie knew about running the business was exactly what Leo had told her. Nothing. But what else was she to do with her life. And...she was determined not to die on the vine. The housewife routine was far behind her. She was out in the world and by hook or crook...well, not exactly, considering the lawful nature of her business...she was determined to succeed.

She's been at it six months now and in her own plough ahead method, she has broken all the rules of the game and.. is still at it. Women are partial to her..give her their work. People being investigated don't know what to make of her methods. As they are unorthodox, how do they counteract them? Her state of widowed innocence is a strong weapon.

Howard Davis had looked forward to taking over the business. And when Mollie came in, he thought she would do the bookkeeping, as she had made her living as a single girl. For her part, Mollie has no wish to make her son a momma's boy so she tries

to give him as much independence as he can handle. The trouble is that somewhere along the line, Howard usually makes a mistake and it is Mollie who bails him out. Not wishing to embarrass her boy, she manages to stay behind the scenes but she is a mighty manipulator.

The joy of it all for Mollie comes not only in the fact that she is surviving as a widow but that she can put her growing talents to work on problems and causes that attract her enormous compassion and motherly love. Runaway girls, a rapist, a ripoff artist preying on older woman..all of it is grist for her mill. And..she is loving it. For she is at long last free and independent. Working...contributing...making it..